

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SIG-01 MCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO:CMM
APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL
ARA:FMCNEIL (IN DRAFT)
ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
ARA/RPP:JPARKER (IN DRAFT)
ACDA:LWATSON (IN DRAFT)
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS (IN DRAFT)
PM/SAS:RTITUS (IN DRAFT)

-----060960 171148Z /15

R 170137Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042114

FOR THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJECT: USG REACTION TO ECUADOREAN PURCHASE OF MIRAGE
F-1 AIRCRAFT

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REFERENCE: A) STATE 001052 B) QUITO 0074

1. SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED JANUARY 23 BY AMBASSADOR
BLOOMFIELD AND ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES BUSHNELL,
MCNEIL, AND ARELLANO. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN HAS
CONCLUDED THAT A DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE IN QUITO TO
COMPLEMENT THE USG REACTION GIVEN IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL A).

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE HAS BEEN PREPARED BY ARA AND CLEARED WITH AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD. YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF SHOULD FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THESE POINTS WITH AN APPROPRIATE GOE OFFICIAL:

A) USG UNDERSTANDS THE GOE CONCERN ABOUT THE PERUVIAN ARMS BUILDUP.

B) USG UNDERSTANDING IS ONE OF THE REASONS WE AGREED TO SEND THE CHAPARRAL/VULCAN SURVEY TEAM. IF ECUADOR BUYS

THAT SURFACE-TO-AIR ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILE SYSTEM, IT WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE TO GET THAT SYSTEM.

C) THE CHAPARRAL/VULCAN IS A PURELY DEFENSIVE SYSTEM. WE WOULD BE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, SHOULD THE GOE MOVE TO ACQUIRE WEAPONS DESIGNED FOR OFFENSE, SINCE THIS COULD EXACERBATE FEARS OF WAR IN THE REGION AND COULD LEAD PERU TO TRY TO COUNTER A PERCEIVED "THREAT/FROM ECUADOR BY BUYING MORE WEAPONS ITSELF. PERUVIAN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS STATED THAT PERU WILL BUY NO MORE WEAPONS.

3. ON MAKING THIS DEMARCHE, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN PROMPTED TO DO SO BY ANY REPORTS OR RUMORS OF POSSIBLE PURCHASES BUT ONLY BY OUR GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERN REGARDING THE BALANCE IN THE SUBREGION.

4. WE WOULD HOPE TO ELICIT FROM THE GOE OFFICIAL WITH WHOM YOU RAISE THE SUBJECT A STATEMENT CONFIRMING OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOE DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY PURCHASES OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. VANCE

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